

Application. No. 09/466,993
March 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2003

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-28, 32 and 36-46 are pending in the application. By this amendment claims 1, 32, and 36 are being amended. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed, no new matter is added, and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

In particular, amendments to these claims further specify that the method (claim 1), computer program product (claim 32) and system (claim 36) require: "issuing a *SCSI* read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results identifying *a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers*".

Applicant has also added new claim 47 which recites an analogous limitation relative *SCSI* and *WWN*'s of: "receiving a first *WWN* of the host bus adapter and a second *WWN* of the disk array controller responsive to the *SCSI* read fibre connection information command." Claim 47 also recited similar elements to the elements recited in the previously pending claims so that no additional search or examination should be required beyond that required for the pending previously examined claims.

The Examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,209,023 to Dimitroff et al., (hereinafter DIMITROFF), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,480,955 to DeKoning et al., (hereinafter DEKONING).

DIMITROFF is directed to a method of virtualizing *SCSI* semantics onto a non-*SCSI* transport medium. DIMITROFF provides a Get Logical To Physical Device Mapping command (hereinafter "GET_MAPPING"). (Col. 14 line 64, through Col. 15 line 14). The

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GET_MAPPING returns a logical to physical device mapping table. The GET_MAPPING command is used for data for each device including four contiguous bytes called a "device record": one byte represents an FCP LUN value, a second byte represents a SCSI bus, a third byte represents a SCSI target, and a fourth byte represents a SCSI LUN. (Col. 14, lines 2-13).

DEKONING is directed to a system and method for managing device configuration changes. The system and method preferably comprises a management station which issues a configuration change request to a management device and waits for a reply from the managed device. (Abstract)

Certain differences between the claimed invention and the cited art have already been argued in the earlier responses and Applicant maintains these are still accurate differences. Applicant has however further amended the claims in response to the final rejection and hereinafter addresses these additional differences.

As to claim 1:

First, Applicants submit that neither of the cited references alone or in combination teach or suggest "issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results identifying a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers." In contrast, the GET_MAPPING command suggested in DIMITROFF returns a physical device mapping table. DIMITROFF does not identify or return a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers. In contrast to the claimed invention, DIMITROFF returns the mapping information for the associated device as described above.

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Thus, Applicants submit that neither of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest "issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results identifying *a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers*".

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn, and that claim 1, and claims 2-28 which are dependent therefrom, be allowed.

As to claim 32:

Applicants submit that, as noted above for claim 1, neither of the cited references alone or in combination suggest issuing a SCSI read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results identifying *a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers*".

Moreover, the Applicants submit that neither reference alone or in combination teach or suggest identifying *a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers*, in response to a "means issuing a SCSI read connection information command", as provided in claim 32. Applicants submit that the section in DIMITROFF cited by the Examiner does not disclose or suggest identifying the communication channel at all. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn, and that claim 32 be allowed.

As to claim 36:

Claim 36 is directed to a system for collecting connection information for a network computer system. As amended claim 36 includes the limitations of: means issuing a SCSI read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results

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determined by said command including identifying *a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers.*

Applicants submit that, as noted above for claim 1, neither of the cited references alone or in combination suggest "identifying *a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers.* In particular, Applicants submit that neither of the cited references alone or in combination teach or suggest a the invention as now claimed. Thus, claim 36 is neither anticipated by nor obviated by the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn, and that claim 36, and claims 37-46 dependent therefrom, be allowed.

As to Claim 47

Applicant has added claim 47 which includes the distinguishing features (a SCSI command) and (identifying *a first WWN of at least one of the host bus adapters and a second WWN of at least one of the device controllers*) and submits that this claim is patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as argued for claims 1, 32, and 36. Applicant submits that although an additional claim has been added here the examination of the claim does not substantially burden the examination and clarifies the issues that need be argued on appeal.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments and preceding remarks. In the event that the Examiner identifies any other issues that would preclude issuing a Notice of Allowance, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, such as fees for extension of time and claims (e.g. new independent Claim 47) added herein but not otherwise paid for, to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. A-67525/RMA(463515-65)).

Respectfully submitted,

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